



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Matheson Named Blue Dog Co-Chair**

*Utah Representative will join Herseth Sandlin, Hill, Shuler in leading coalition efforts*

Washington, DC – Today, members of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition announced that Utah **Representative Jim Matheson** will be joining the group’s leadership team as the Co-Chair for Communications. Matheson, a leader in Congress and senior member of the Coalition, will play a critical role in advancing the Blue Dog agenda as members continue to promote fiscal responsibility and weigh in on critical legislation before Congress.

“This is not only a pivotal time for the Blue Dogs, but for the nation as a whole. The decisions we make now will have a significant impact on future generations of Americans,” said Matheson. “The role of the Blue Dogs as a moderating force in Congress is important now, more than ever, and I look forward to leading their efforts to bring increased fiscal responsibility and accountability to the federal government.”

“Jim Matheson is a well-respected member who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this position,” said **Representative Charlie Melancon** (D-LA), former Blue Dog Co-Chair for Communications. “I look forward to continuing work with him and other Blue Dogs in the future as an active member of the Coalition.”

Matheson will join Representatives Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-SD), Baron Hill (D-IN) and Heath Shuler (D-NC) on the Blue Dog leadership team as Representative Charlie Melancon (D-LA) advances his statewide bid for the U.S. Senate in Louisiana.

“I welcome Congressman Matheson to the Blue Dog Leadership team as Co-Chair for Communications,” said **Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin**, Blue Dog Co-Chair for Administration. “As the Congress continues its work on critical issues facing the country, including health care, the Blue Dogs will continue to focus on fiscal responsibility in the short and long term. Jim will be an essential part of that effort. ”

“Congressman Matheson will make a great addition to our leadership team,” said **Representative Baron Hill** (D-IN), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Policy. “I look forward to working with him to advance important Blue Dog policy objectives, including a return to the fiscally responsible pay-as-you-go laws that were successful in reducing deficits in the 1990’s.”

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“For years, Congressman Matheson has demonstrated a deep commitment to the Blue Dog tenet of fiscal discipline,” said **Representative Heath Shuler** (D-NC), Blue Dog Whip. “Jim has been a tireless force for fiscal responsibility and commonsense government over the years, and I look forward to working with him to lead Blue Dog efforts in the weeks and months ahead.”

*The fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the House of Representatives and appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. The Blue Dogs are dedicated to a core set of beliefs that transcend partisan politics, including a deep commitment to the financial stability and national security of the United States. Currently there are 52 members of the Blue Dog Coalition. For more information, visit the Blue Dog Website at <http://www.house.gov/melancon/BlueDogs/>.*

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